

Serial No.: 09/813,780
Examiner: Carlos A. Azpuru
Group Art Unit: 1615

REMARKS

Claims 1-17, 22-26, 28, 34-42, and 46-48 are presently pending.

Claims 18-21, 29-32 and 43-45 are withdrawn as belonging to a non-elected species and Claim 33 was previously cancelled. Applicants have hereby amended independent claims 1, 22, and 34, and cancelled Claim 27. Support for the amendments is provided throughout the specification and the original claims as filed, particularly paragraphs [0022], [0023], [0040] to [0043], [0047] and [0049] of the specification. Applicants assert that there is no issue of new matter.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (908) 518-7700, ext. 7 in order to resolve any outstanding issues.

FEES

The Office is authorized to charge any fees required to deposit account number 50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,



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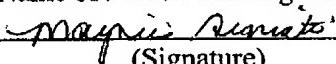
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I hereby certify that this correspondence and any document referenced herein is being sent to the United States Patent and Trademark office via Facsimile to: 571-273-0588 on 9/24/04.

Marjorie Scariati

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